

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

AFL-CIO



OFFICE OF
JAMES P. HOFFA
GENERAL PRESIDENT

The Honorable Gray Davis
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Davis:

On behalf of Teamster members in California, I urge you to sign SB 1044 and SB 1111, authored by Senator Sheila Kuehl. These two bills are designed to assess the impacts of international trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas on California's labor and environmental laws.

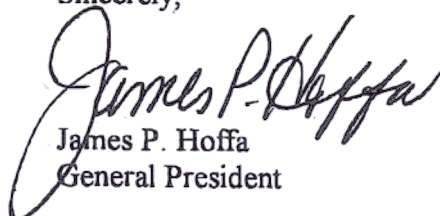
Specifically, SB 1044 requires the Director of Industrial Relations to consult with legislative bodies and the public to determine which California labor laws could be considered a potential conflict with international trade rules; requires that public hearings be held; and mandates that a report of those findings be published and recommendations made to the Legislature, the California Congressional delegation, and various Cabinet Secretaries.

SB 1111 is a companion bill to SB 1044 and requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to consult with legislative bodies and the public to determine which of California's environmental laws could be considered a potential conflict with international trade rules.

In the past, states have traditionally played a limited role in the formation of international trade policy, but the enforcement mechanisms of these agreements pose a real threat to California's ability to enforce its hard fought-for environmental, labor, human rights, and worker safety laws. These bills are intended to begin the process of educating the legislative and administrative branches of the Government, as well as the public, so that California can play a more meaningful role in the formation of trade agreements and in defending and protecting its laws and authority.

Again, I urge you to sign SB 1044 and SB 1111 into law.

Sincerely,


James P. Hoffa
General President

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